FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 MARCH 1986

Libyan-U.S. Clash in Gulf of Sidra

Libya will continue its "brave opposition" to the United States and will consider any U.S. target as "hostile," the People's committee of the Foreign Liaison Bureau told foreign ambassadors in a statement reported by JANA. The committee accused the United States of endangering peace and security by firing missiles "toward libyan territory and from inside Libyan territorial waters." Monitored Libyan media have provided no further details of the results of U.S. attacks except for JANA's claim, cited by Tripoli radio and television, that the rocket shelling of the suburbs of surt caused no damage. The television also broadcast Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's statement in a telephone conversation with the YAR president that Arab support for Libya shows that the Americans "cannot deal with every part of the Arab nation individually." One of Al-Qadhdhafi's close aides told a French radio station that "the entire Arab nation backs Libya" and that the U.S. "aggression" will result in reprisals against U.S. interests, either in the Arab world or elsewhere, according to AFP.

Meanwhile, the Arab League Council expressed "absolute backing" for Libya in a statement reported by KUNA, urging the Arab states to assist Libya to repel the U.S. attacks and calling on the United States to immediately cease all military operations against Libya. The foreign ministers also called for a UN Security Council meeting to discuss the grave situation in the Mediterranean. Among other expressions of Arab support for Libya, Moroccan King Hassan II declared "full solidarity" in a cable to Al-Qadhdhafi broadcast by Rabat radio, adding that Morocco will do "everything necessary" to help safeguard Libya's "integrity." An Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Algiers radio likewise reaffirmed his country's support for Libya "in defense of the sanctity of its sovereignty" and denounced the U.S. use of force as "unacceptable." Syria confirmed its "complete solidarity" with Libya in an official statement carried by Damascus television, which also noted that Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam returned to damascus with a reply message from Col al-Qadhdhafi for the Syrian president. Meanwhile, Al-Qadhdhafi discussed the Gulf of Sidra situation in a telephone conversation with Saudi King Fahd, Jeddah radio noted. The radio did not confirm Tripoli television's contention that Fahd expressed support for Libya. In another development, the Sudanese Army chief of staff stated Sudan's support for Libya against the U.S. "aggression" during a meeting with the Libyan Armed Forces commander in Tripoli, according to JANA. For Egypt's part, a Foreign Ministry statement carried by MENA expressed concern over the situation in the Gulf of Sidra, calling for self-restraint and an end to acts of violence.

As for the Palestinians, the PLO issued a statement in Tunis expressing "full solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people" in the face of the U.S. "imperialist onslaught," KUNA reported. An official spokesman for Sabri al-Banna's group, Fatah-the Revolutionary council, warned in a statement reported by JANA that his organization will henceforth target all American "imperialist interests" wherever they are.

In contrast, the Israeli Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry welcomed the U.S. military action against Libya in announcements reported by IDF radio, which pointed out that the U.S. pilots' experience against SAM-5's will be of interest to Israel.

Lebanon

A booby-trapped car exploded in the al-Ashrafiyah area of east Beirut 26 March causing more than 30 casualties, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force carried out a "devastating" raid against Iran's Moshk camp early 26 March, an Iraqi spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, the commander of Iran's Revolution Guards Corps called on Iranians to get more involved in the war effort, advising them to ignore "vast foreign propaganda for blunting mass fervor and dampening the public enthusiasm," according to IRNA. Tehran radio broadcast an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement accusing Iraq of renewed chemical weapons attacks in the Al-Faw area over the past 2 days and warning that unless the attacks are stopped, Iran will be "unwillingly forced to adopt other methods to defend itself and stop this dangerous act." In other developments, the Arab League Council in a statement reported by KUNA condemned Iran's occupation of Iraqi territory and expressed concern over "the Iranian threat to the security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Arab Gulf states." The statement was issued "against Syrian and Libyan reservations," KUNA added.

Morocco-SDAR

Eight Moroccan soldiers were killed in two attacks by Polisario forces north of Amgala 20 March, Algiers radio reported, citing an SDAR Information Ministry Communique.

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CSSR Communist Party Holds 17th Congress

PDPA Sends Message

LD260619 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 25, BAKHTAR — The Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) has conveyed its best wishes for the success of the 17th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in a message sent to the participants of the congress.

The message has also conveyed the warm greetings of the PDPA CC to all the members of the Communist Party of that country.

"The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan considers in high esteem the heroic struggles of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in the emancipation of their country from the yoke of Hitlerite facism and construction of a socialist society in Czechoslovakia", says the message.

Delegation Departs for Congress

LD231908 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications, left for Prague today at the invitation of Czechoslovakia's Communist Party Central Committee, as a head of the PDPA Central Committee delegation to participate in the work of the 17th Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

Brigadier General Muhammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers; the vice chairman of the International Relations Department of the PDPA Central Committee; and the CSSR ambassador in Kabul were present at Kabul International Airport to see the delegation off.

Economic Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR

LD240603 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 23, BAKHTAR — A protocol of cooperation was signed between the Soviet Union and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan at the meeting of the Afghan-Soviet Joint Permanent Economic Cooperation Commission held here.

On the basis of the protocol, the Soviet Union will render financial and technical assistance for sixty five development projects in the DRA in the fields of industries transport, mines, energy, agriculture, irrigation, foodstuffs, public health and social services.

The Soviet Union has increased its project assistance to the DRA for the current Afghan year by seventy percent compared to that of the last year ended March 20, 1986.

Assistance rendered by the Soviet Union in the preceding year included essential projects, such as the vehicle workshops of Kamaz and Jangalak factories in Kabul, gasoline tankers, extension and reconstruction of the first stage of Kabul International Airport, polyclinic and employees health insurance, materials testing laboratory, elevators of Mazar-e Sharif silo, and construction of 840 residential apartments for the Afghan people.

It is envisaged that the assistance of the Soviet Union to the projects of the DRA will increase to 80 percent of the total foreign aid.

Delegation Returns From Anti-Imperialist Meeting

LD250705 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 24, BAKHTAR — An Afghan delegation headed by Abdorrahim Hatef, president of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front, NFF, returned home today after participating in the anti-imperialist conference of the national progressive movements and the creation of an anti-imperialism international united front held in Libya.

President of Afghan National Fatherland Front had meetings with the high authorities of Libyan Islamic Department and had fruitful talks on the possibility of cooperation with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and trust properties of the DRA.

Abdorrahim Hatef during his visit signed a bilateral cooperation agreement with Libyan side. Under this agreement, the solidarity organizations of the DRA and those of Libya would render cooperation with each other.

Casualties Among Counterrevolutionaries Reported

LD250712 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 24, BAKHTAR — The turghi [Dari word for a type of bird] youths have exploded a tractor of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries by a mine in the Khurram region and the explosion has claimed the [words indistinct] counter-revolutionaries and their weapons were seized by the turghi youths, reports reaching here say.

The reports add that as a result of mine explosions taken place in different localities of Khurram region, 28 counter-revolutionaries have been killed, another 10 wounded and their transportation vehicles have been put out of action.

U.S., Pakistan Reportedly Sign Secret Military Deal

LD260031 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Mar 86

[BIA political commentary]

[Text] In order to modernize the military force of Pakitan, the Islamabad regime will receive over $4 billion from the United States on the basis of a new military agreement with the Washington administration for 1986-1993.

According to Pakistani media, this agreement was recently concluded in a secret session in Islamabad between William Schneider, assistant to the U.S. secretary of state, and Yasin

Khan Watto, minister of finance and economic affairs of Pakistan. The main outline of this agreement on a military deal has not yet been disclosed.

The Pakistani media long ago revealed the fact that the Islamabad regime will put Pakistani territory at the disposal of the United States in return for military assistance. Washington and Pakistan will play the gendarme role in crushing the national and progressive movement in the Asian region.

According to international reports, Pakistan is one of the major customers among the developing countries of modern weapons and military technology made in the United States. In the near future, with the assistance of the Washington administration, Pakistan will be transformed into one of the important manufacturers of military weapons among the developing countries. At this very moment, Pakistan, in addition to obtaining F-16 fighters capable of carrying atomic weapons is on the threshold of manufacturing nuclear weapons with U.S. assistance, like Israel and the racist regime of the South Africa, and will be able to manufacture five nuclear weapons annually.

The political observers time and again have emphasized that the CIA, after the fall of the shah's regime in Iran, has chosen Pakistan for its strategic objectives in the Gulf region and Southeast Asia.

The Pakistani politicians long ago warned of the results of the visits high-ranking representatives of the Washington administration, which have taken place during the recent years. The landing of 6,000 troops from the U.S. 7th Fleet in Karachi demonstrates the conclusion of a new military deal between Washington and Islamabad. It also explains that the Islamabad regime has transformed the Pakistani territory into an area for the destructive actions of U.S. imperialism and itself into an obedient slave. In this way Pakistan can more effectively play its role on the instruction of the Reagan administration — to create tension in the region and continue the imperialist war against the DRA.

Evidence testifies that the Washington administration, behind this generous military assistance to the Islamabad regime, is following crushing objectives vis-a-vis the national and progressive anti-imperialist movements, whether inside Pakistani territory or in the Gulf region and Southeast Asia.

The creation of tension on the borders of India and the continuation of the undeclared imperialist war against the DRA are examples.

The Washington regime, parallel with the military assistance to the Islamabad regime, is continuously increasing military assistance to Afghanistan's counterrevolutionaries nested in the Pakistani territory. In the current year alone, the Afghan counterrevolutionaries will receive $470 million in military assistance from the United States. If we compare these [word indistinct] military assitance of the Reagan administration to the Islamabad regime and to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries with the hypocritical statement of R. Reagan in the United Nations General Assembly, alleging that his administration pays special attention to the solution of regional disputes, we can realize easily that Washington administration, in order to deceive world public opinion, says one thing but does another. The true fact is that the Washington administration does not want peace to dominate the world and people to live in peace and security. Hence, the Reagan administration is the cause of all calamity and flareups in the world and it must give an answer.

Celebrations Held for Independence Day

Ershad Issues Message

BK251619 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The independence and national day will be celebrated in the country with usual gaiety and festivity. In a message on the eve of the day, President Ershad has called for taking a renewed vow to rededicate ourselves to the task of materializing the dreams of martyrs. He said the price that the nation paid for our freedom is colossal and we owe to the blood of the martyrs to make the hard earned independence truly meaningful. He paid glowing tributes to the sacred memory of the martyrs who made supreme sacrifice for the independence.

The president said the country is now at the threshold of a new era and a new surge is discernable in all realms of national life. A new society is being textured as the vestiges of colonialism are being assiduously wiped out to propel into creativity the vast potentials of 10 crore people. He said the administration is now decentralized and judiciary brought to the reach of the common people. Industrialization has also gained momentum with the creation of congenial climate for investment.

In this context, the president pointed out that the nation can reap the benefit of these forward looking policies only in a persisting atmosphere of peace under a congenial political process. It is gratifying to note that the politics is now undergoing a positive transformation and a new dawn of democratic policy is heralding with the active participation of the masses. The nation is going to have an elected parliament very soon.

The president said Bangladesh now occupies an enviable position in the comity of nations. Its pioneering role in the formation of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation has opened new vistas of peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region.

Government Releases 169 Prisoners

BK241718 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The government has decided to release 169 detainees from custody on the occasion of independence and national day. They include persons detained under the Special Powers Act 1974 and under trial prisoners.

The government hopes that the concerned people will appreciate the gesture and contribute to the making of a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

Ershad Reallocates Portfolios Among Ministers

BK241327 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] President Ershad today reallocated the ministries among the existing members of the cabinet. The reallocation followed the resignations of the election-seeking ministers yesterday in fulfillment of the terms given by the president to pave the way the holding the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] election. The reallocated portfolios of the existing ministers are:

Ministry of Communications, Port, Shipping and Inland Water Transport; Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development, and Flood Control; and Ministry of Post, Telecommunication: DCMLA [Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator] Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed

Ministry of Industry; Ministry of Commerce; and Ministry of Jute and Textiles: DCMLA Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud

Ministry of Law and Justice; Ministry of Education; and Ministry of Religious Affairs: Justice Nurul Islam

Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation; Ministry of Food; and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock: Major General Abdul Mannan Siddiqui.

Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources; and Ministry of Works: Major General M.A. Munim

Ministry of Home Affairs; and Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives: Major General Mahmudal Hasan

Ministry of Social Welfare and Women's Affairs: Mrs Rabiya Bhuiya

Ministry of Youth and Sports; Ministry of Labor and Manpower; and Ministry of Land Administration and Land Reform: Zakir Khan Chowdhury

Mr M. Syeduzzaman will continue as adviser with the (?rank) and status of a minister and will hold the charge of Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning. The other ministries will remain under the president.

Opposition 'Far From Unanimous' on Elections

HK230934 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 23 Mar 86

[By Roushan Zaman]

[Text] Dhaka, March 23 (AFP) — Bangladesh's opposition groups were on Sunday still far from unanimous about whether to take part in a general election following military ruler President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's promise of concessions. The leader of the seven-party opposition alliance said on Sunday the group was still undecided about contesting the May 7 parliamentary elections.

And informed sources said the other alliance, grouping 15 parties, was split by the issue, although it said on Saturday it would take part on condition that Lieutentant General Ershad made good his offer of concessions.

Meanwhile, Lt Gen Ershad has already taken steps to fulfil his promise of concessions designed to encourage the opposition to contest the polls.

The opposition has previously refused to contest elections held under martial law rule.

But on Friday Lt Gen Ershad said he was willing to accede to opposition demands that the polling put back [as received], to dismantle martial law institutions and to form a new cabinet with a "neutral look."

He demanded that in return the opposition drop plans to boycott the polls.

Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the seven-party alliance and its major component, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), told reporters after a series of meetings of leaders of Alliance partners and senior BNP officials late on Saturday: "We are not opposed to elections.

"But we don't want to participate in any election to legitimise an illegal military government."

Begum Zia described the government's election initiatives as "an arranged game" and said those who committed themselves to taking part without a guarantee that the polling would be free ignored the people's interests.

In what observers said was an oblique reference to the 15-party alliance, Begum Zia said: "Whoever goes to join the arranged games under this regime will be ultimately identified as the national traitors."

Begum Zia said the 15-party alliance had not informed the leadership of her seven-party group about its decision to contest the elections, despite the fact that the two alliances had a joint liaison committee.

Asked if her alliance had taken any definitive decision about taking part in the polls, she replied: "Such a decision cannot be taken overnight. We have to talk with the component parties and different professional groups on the issue before we can come up with a firm stand."

The BNP chief said the "successful and spontaneous observance" of Saturday's dawn-to-dusk general strike, called in protest against elections being held under martial law rule, indicated that people had no confidence in Lt Gen Ershad's regime.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the 15-party alliance and its major partner, the Awami League, said she regarded the forthcoming election as a challenge to be faced to advance the people's movement against the military regime.

She expressed in a written statement the hope that the people would prove that "ballot is more powerful than bullet."

However, informed sources told reporters that the 15-party alliance faced a major crisis because at least five minor partners opposed participation in the elections.

In line with Lt Gen Ershad's promised concessions, the election commission on Saturday shifted polling day from April 26 to May 7, and the government announced the scrapping of the martial law offices and courts.

An aide at the presidential palace told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that a "farewell cabinet meeting" was to be held on Sunday, at which at least 19 ministers seeking election in the forthcoming elections would resign.

He said the president was expected to reconstitute his council of ministers to give it a neutral look during the election period.

Series of Bomb Blasts Rock Dhaka Business District

BK251600 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 25 (AFP) — A series of bomb blasts Tuesday rocked the busy commercial area of Moti Jheel here as a group of students staged a procession shouting anti-election slogans, police said.

Nobody was injured or arrested after the blast which took place at the same time as a group of nearly 500 militant students demonstrated in the area, police and eyewitnesses said.

Militant anti-government students have been protesting the holding of parliamentary polls scheduled for May 7, which some major opposition groups including a 15-party opposition alliance have agreed to join.

National polls in Bangladesh have been postponed three times in the past in face of boycott threats from the opposition, which has consistently refused to take part in any electoral exercise under the martial law regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Trade Delegation Leaves for Moscow 24 March

BK241621 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] A 4-member Bangladesh trade delegation left Dhaka for Moscow today. The delegation led by the commerce secretary, Mr A.B.M. Golam Mustafa, will negotiate and conclude a barter protocol with the USSR. The Soviet delegation at the talks will be headed by the deputy minister for foreign trade, Mr A.N. Manzhulo.

Bangladesh and the Soviet Union signed a trade agreement in 1972 and since then the two countries have so far concluded 14 barter protocols. The last protocol was signed in April last year and expires this month.

Under the new protocol, Bangladesh is likely to export to the Soviet Union jute goods, raw jute, hides and skins, tobacco, carpets, ready-made garments, tea and handicraft. It will import from the USSR sugar, cement, cotton, diesel, pig iron, tractors, trailers, machinery, and equipment and spare parts.

'Grave Concern' Expressed Over U.S.-Libyan Conflict

BK261358 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] India has expressed grave concern over the U.S. maneuvers in the Gulf of Sida and attacks on Libyan patrol boats and a missile battery in the Libyan territory. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, an official spokesman said that India views that those acts pose a serious threat not only to the security of the region but also to international peace and stability. India had earlier also expressed that situations of this kind are best resolved through a dialogue and not through pressure. It views that the U.S. action is unfortunate since by virtue of its position as a permament member of the Security Council it has a primary responsibility for maintenance of peace and security and to abide by the principles of the UN Charter.

Other Nations Contacted Over U.S. Nuclear Test

BK251559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] India is in touch with the other five countries which have joined the 6-nation initiative for nuclear disaramament to formulate a stand on the latest U.S. test at Nevada. This was officially stated in New Delhi today.

Congress-I Members Express Concern on Punjab

BK251601 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The Congress-I members of Parliament from Punjab held an emergency meeting in New Delhi and expressed grave concern and anxiety over the recent incidents of violence in the state. The meeting, which was presided over by the chairman of the Punjab state committee of the party, Mr H.S. Hanspal, urged the center to intervene in an effective manner to halt the deteriorating situation in the state. The new PCC-I [Pradesh, State Congress Committee-I] president, Mr (Beant Singh), was also present. The members extended their total support and cooperation to Mr (Beant Singh) and appealed to him to streamline the organization at this critical juncture.

Further Reportage on Unrest Incidents in Punjab

2 Killed; Curfew in 6 Towns

BK260307 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were shot dead by four suspected terrorists in village Satyabad in Amritsar district last evening. The victims were attacked when they were sitting in their shop. The assailants escaped in a truck parked near the scene of the murder.

Meanwhile, a curfew was clamped yesterday in Hajipur town of Hoshiarpur district also. The curfew is continuing in Jullundur, Nakodar, Batala, and Muktsar towns. Night curfew is in force in Kapurthala.

The Amritsar police yesterday arrested the spokesman of the Damdami Taksal [Sikh religious body], Mr Mokham Singh, and three others in connection with a case registered against them by the Amritsar police some time back.

Additional Violence Noted

BK260855 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons, including a suspected terrorist, were killed and a woman injured when some unidentified terrorists attacked a house in a village in Gurdaspur district last evening. According to an official spokesman, some 10 gun-weilding terrorists attacked a house of a retired Army naik [junior officer] and tried to deprive him of his licensed revolver. The naik resisted their attempts, and — in the exchange of fire which followed — the naik and one of the terrorists were killed and a woman relation of the naik was injured.

Meanwhile, tension prevails in Anandpur Saheb, where Holla Mohalla [a religious festival] is to be celeberated tomorrow.

In another incident, one infiltrator was shot dead in an exchange of fire with the Border Security Force [BSF] in the (Gharinda) area last night. According to BSF sources, three persons from across the border were trying to enter the Indian territory. When they were challenged, one man was killed in an exchange of fire and two escaped across the border.

Police Fire on 'Unruly Mob'

BK261259 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] In Anandpur Saheb [in Punjab], 5 persons were killed and 15 injured when the police opened fire to control an unruly mob indulging in brickbatting and arson. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the police resorted to firing after lathi [baton] charge and lobbing of teargas shells and firing of plastic bullets failed to control the mob. Someone from amongst the mob is reported to have indulged in firing also.

4 Killed in Communal Clashes in Gujarat Town

BK261257 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] In Gujarat, 4 perseons have been killed and 32 others injured in clashes between 2 groups of people in Verval town in Junagad district this afternoon. Following this, indefinite curfew has been clamped in the town from 1300 and the situation is now reported to be under control. According to the police, clashes took place as a sequel to sprinkling of color [to mark Hindu festival today]. The police had to open fire to disperse the violent crowd indulging in stone throwing and arson. District officials have rushed to the town. Strict police patrolling is continuing.

Spokesman 'Deeply Concerned' by Libya-U.S. Conflict
BK260816 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu
0800 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman, whose attention was drawn to the incident in the Gulf of Sidra, has said the government of Pakistan is deeply concerned at the situation there. The spokesman said Pakistan firmly believes that the use of or threat to use force for settling disputes is not in keeping with international law and is contrary to the United Nations Charter. The spokesman said the latest incident has created a dangerous situation and poses a threat to international peace and security.

Zia, Junejo Send Messages to Bangladesh President
BK260239 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have sent messages of greetings to Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad on the National Day of Bangladesh today.

In his message, the president expressed the confidence that the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries will continue to gain strength in future.

The prime minister said he is fully confident that the friendly relations between the two countries will become stronger in the years to come.

DRA Protest on Airspace Violation Rejected
BK251521 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1510 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Pakistan today rejected the Kabul regime's protest alleging that on 18 March a Pakistani jet aircraft violated Afghanistan's airspace and intruded 8 km inside the Guroko region east of Jalalabad. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning and informed of the rejection of the Kabul regime's protest. He was asked to tell his administration to desist from making such false allegations.

Iranian Majlis Deputy Speaks on Relations, Gulf War
GF251651 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
21 Mar 86 p 5

[Article by Minhaj Barna]

[Text] Karachi, March 20: Mr Fakhreddin Hejazi, a member of the Iranian Parliament, said here on Thursday that he was not aware of the reported intrusion by Iranian "Pasdaran" into Pakistan territory across Iran-Baluchistan border. He, however, added that sometimes Iranian guards could unwittingly cross the border in pursuit of smugglers and criminals.

He was replying to newsmen's queries at his news conference on Thursday afternoon at the Karachi Press Club.

Mr Hejazi who is a wellknown writer and journalists of Iran and is author of several books, including *Sarood-i-Iqbal*, a research work on the poet of the East, is currently on a visit to Pakistan.

He said Pakistan being a friendly country, Iran has always shown respect for its borders and there is no question of Iranian guards knowingly crossing the international boundary.

The question arose out of a report published in an English, daily of Karachi alleging that "a group of armed "Pasdaran" (revolutionary guards) who intruded into Pakistani territory near Gwalishtap, a border post in Chaman, was chased out by the Pakistani border security forces late on Monday night".

Asked when the war between Iran and Iraq would come to an end, he said Iraq launched the war and was the aggressor and the hostilities would continue until the aggressor was punished.

He said it is not because of any liking for war that Iran is continuing the hostilities. During the last six years as a result of Iraqi "aggression" over 12 Iranian cities have been destroyed, 2000 villages ravaged and the country has to bear a total loss amounting to two and a half billion dollars. This he said, was in addition to thousands of young Iranians who had sacrificed their lives.

Asked whether the war could spill over to other adjoining Gulf states in view of the Gulf Council statements, Mr Hejazi said, "Iran does not want to spread the war unless Iraq itself embarks on an adventure". He quoted a statement from President Khamene'i who said "Iran's war is only with Iraq and we shall stop it as soon as Iraq is punished".

To a question referring to the erecting of fences along Pakistan's boundary line by Iran, he said there is complete peace on the Pakistan-Iran border and if any measures have been taken by his country it was to check smugglers.

Replying to a supplementary, he said the Baluchi people living in border areas on both sides are free to travel.

Asked what was his country's reaction to the recent visit of U.S. warships of the Seventh fleet to Pakistan, Mr Hejazi said, "Our stand is that only fleets of the neighbouring countries have the right to sail in the Indian Ocean and the American and Russian fleets should not intrude into the region".

To a question whether the visit of *Enterprise* was in any way connected with the Iraq-Iran war he said, "We are not afraid of Sixth or Seventh fleets".

In reply to a question on the liberation movement of the Kurds he said Iran has advanced into the Iraqi occupied Kurd areas up to Al-Sulaymaniyah and has liberated them.

Asked whether the Kurd areas in Turkey have also been liberated, he said, "We have no dispute with Turkey".

Regarding his programme in Pakistan, Mr Hejazi said he will spend a couple of weeks here and visit institutions of learning and culture.

SRI LANKA

Visiting Soviet Minister Talks With Trade Minister

BK221528 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] The Soviet Union will award an increased number of scholarships and more training facilities to Sri Lankans in the near future underlining the growing friendship between the two countries. In addition, the Soviet Union is prepared to help Sri Lanka in numberous other ways. This was disclosed by the visiting Soviet minister, food industries, (?S.I. Vikhlyantsev), when he paid a curtesy call on the minister of trade and shipping, M.S. Amarasiri, in Colombo yesterday. He invited Mr Amarasiri to visit the Soviet Union and hold a dialogue with the Russian trade authorities to further promote trade links between the two countries.

Government To Continue Offer for Cease-Fire

BK251213 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Government wished to [words indistinct] in response to its request for continued good offices to resolve the Tamil ethnic conflict will continue its unilateral offer to cease air attacks in the north and plans to receive Sri Lankan refugees via the Talaimanner pier. Security forces have not resumed their attacks since the announcement of the suspension on 15 March. Assistant government agent (Jaya Samukhanathan), two grama sevakas [village volunteers] and two clerks were back at the Talaimanner pier yesterday to receive any refugee who would return from Tamil Nadu. The government is considering these measures in order to demonstrate its intentions to consolidate the cessation of hostilities and to show it is genuinely creating the conditions necessary to resume the process for a political settlement.

Security forces had arrested a suspect believed to be the Tamil Eelam Liberation Army [TELA] leader at Jaffna in an operation in Kokkuvil. The suspect had been identified as (?Sugar). He is reported to have confessed that he directed TELA operations in Jaffna. In another operation in Kilinochchi, security forces arrested four suspects believed to be members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Secuirty sources said an attempt made by terrorists to blow up [words indistinct] runway escorted by troops who defused a gelignite landmine found buried in the airfield. The mine is said to go off on an impact of the aircraft landing. Meanwhile, the defense council met at noon yesterday to discuss more effective security for the air strip.

In Kilinochchi and Polonnaruwa on Sunday [23 March], 15 terrorist suspects were arrested by the security forces in combing out operations. Security forces have detected 52 kg of explosives buried on the road between Chenkaladi and (Karavianaru) in Batticaloa. They also found 100 yards of wire and a detonator. Security sources said the terrorists have been setting a powerful landmine.

Meanwhile, three more persons were kidnapped and another was critically injured as tension between Muslims and the Tamil community continued in the eastern province yesterday. A total of nine persons had been kidnapped so far within 2 days of unrest in Kattankudi, Araipattu, (Wanchankoduai), and Navatkuda in the Batticaloa district.

On Sunday, two Muslim youths were kidnapped by terrorists and in retaliation a group of Muslims kidnapped four Tamils.

Further Reportage on Violence Incidents

7 Killed in Jaffna, Trincomalee

BK250309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, seven persons have been killed in separate incidents in Jaffna and Trincomalee districts over the last 3 days. Delayed reports reaching Colombo say three elderly persons were killed on Friday and Saturday when security forces fired from their camp at (Thonditurai) in Jaffna district toward devotees gathered at (Seva Samithi) temple. The Velvettiturai citizens committee has condemned the attack on devotees and has claimed that the army has made the temple its main target. In an appeal to the minister for Hindu religious affairs, the committee asked him to order immediate withdrawal of the army from the area and declare the temple premises as sacred.

Muslems Execute Kidnapped Tamils

HK250758 Hong Kong AFP in English 0753 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 25 (AFP) — Moslems in eastern province have executed nine of 18 Tamils kidnapped over the weekend and tied their bodies to lamp posts, sources in the region said Tuesday.

The abductions and Monday's executions were carried out in retaliation for the kidnapping Sunday by militant Tamil separatists of two Moslems whom they believed were home guards, the sources said.

Security forces are patrolling the area to prevent further abductions and retaliations by the Moslem and Tamil communities which dominate the area around the provincial capital of Batticaloa, official sources said Tuesday.

Residents said the Moslems were now threatening to kill the remaining nine Tamils they were holding if the abducted Moslems were not released.

Many shops have closed and transport was reduced to a minimum in Kattankudi, where the two Moslems were taken, and several villages nearby, they added.

Meanwhile, in northwestern Mannar, two militant Tamil separatists and a soldier died when militants ambushed an army unit, security sources said.

The Tamil militants have been waging a long-running campaign for a separate state in the northern and eastern provinces. At least 1,300 people have died in violence related to the campaign during the past 13 months.

2 'Terrorists' Killed in Mannar

BK241058 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Two terrorists were killed by the security forces this morning at Mannar Town. The terrorists had attacked the security forces and in the ensuing clash the two terrorists were killed. According to LANKA PUWATH, an army sergeant received minor injuries in the incident.

Around 10 Marxist terrorists fled when troops raided a terrorist base in Muttur in northwestern Sri Lanka. Home guards also effectively repulsed a terrorist attack on a village in the Trincomalee district. The terrorists had attempted to attack the Jayapura village using small arms and mortar fire. They also exploded an improvised [words indistinct] mine.

'Terrorists' Set Fire to Train

BK251325 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The Yaldevi train, coming from Jaffna to Colombo, today was stopped by the terrorists at (Puwanthai), and the passengers on board were asked to disembark. Terrorists then set fire to all (?three) bogies and blasted the engine with explosive device that had been placed under the culvert.

Shortly after the incident, the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, visited the scene to see himself the damage that had been caused by the terrorists.

11 'Marxist Terrorists' Captured

BK231338 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Marxist terrorists who were erecting barricades along the (Thondamannar)-Achchuveli road in the northern province yesterday fled when troops opened fire. Security sources told LANKA PUWATCH that the terrorists were erecting barricades about 1,200 metres away from the (Thondamannar) security forces camp. The troops spotted them and fired mortars. The terrorists fled. The terrorist casualties are not known.

Eleven Marxist terrorists belonging to the Tamil Eelam Liberation, People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front were captured by the security forces at Kilinochchi in the northern province yesterday. Security forces, getting the information that these terrorists were harassing the general public, had carried out the search operation.

DAILY NEWS Examines PRC Support

BK250749 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 15 Mar 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Chinese Goodwill"]

[Text] Two points made by President Jayewardene, in his speech at the banquet held in honour of the visiting Chinese President Li Xiannian and Madam Lin Jiamei at the Janadhipathi Mandiraya last Tuesday, could well merit the distinction of being clearly imprinted in the minds of all those concerned with the future of Sri Lanka.

The Lankan President underlined the simple but important truth that the visit of the Chinese leader and his wife symbolised the friendly relations and understanding between our two countries. President Jayewardene also went on to remind his listeners of the Chinese President's assurance to the Lankan Head of State, two years ago in Beijing, that the People's Republic of China would always support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

China ranks with the most powerful nations on earth, today. Military strategists have even come to regard her as a foil to Soviet Russia.

For that reason alone, moral considerations apart, China's endorsement of our independence and unity ought to weigh with foreign observers.

It is doubtless true that it is in times of trouble that we come to discover our friends: come to discover whether people will stand up for a principle and remain true, or fish for excuses to put a gloss on their own perfidy.

Sri Lanka, it may be said, can look back with some satisfaction on her own record in the last Indo-Chinese frontier war. Colombo sought to bring peace, not to offer pretexts for accomodating violence or exploiting the misfortunes of neighbouring states.

The People's Republic of China has pledged itself to assist Sri Lanka in setting up a new complex for our Supreme Court. That gesture is symbolic, too. For, the Courts in any land are there to administer and uphold justice, to uphold the dignity of law, both domestic and international.

Equally, today international terrorism and hijacking like piracy of old, are also matters on which the community of world nations has taken a strong and clear stand: an attitude of abhorrence.

Thus, people who tell us that we can negotiate direct with rebels on our soil might be regarded as displaying splendid indifference if they could convince us, at least, that they were in no way conniving with those who have taken up arms against established authority.

China's own attitude to our problem is at least more re-assuring. To the credit of the Chinese leadership, it has rarely been bamboozled: nor has it ever lacked the courage of giving expression to its own considered opinion on a subject. Least of all, can it be said that the Chinese have any weakness for backing away from friends in distress?

Further Reportage on U.S.-Libyan Conflict

Khamene'i Message of Support

GF260450 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following the aggression of the U.S. fleet against Libyan coastal areas, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has sent a message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the People's Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

This message says: The seditious and aggressive U.S. imperialism in continuing its mischief has once again rushed its fleet to the Libyan coast and has insolently violated Libyan coastal areas and waters. The firm actions of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in defending its land is a cause of pride for the world's Muslims and we are proud of the Libyan people's defense in face of aggressions by the great Satan.

We believe that the recent U.S. aggression against your coastal waters is a testing ground that the people and the leadership of Libya should consider as a source of pride in their struggle against the seditious U.S. imperialism, just as this aggression is a testing ground for Arab and Muslim countries who always claim to defend the dignity of Arab lands. We hope that these nations carry out practical actions in defense of Libya's people who have been violated so clearly.

The message of the Islamic president also says: I hereby convey the firm support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the brother nation of Libya in their dignified defense in the face of the shameless aggressions by the great Satan. We assure you that the Muslim people of Iran are beside the people and the leadership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah with all their resources.

We sincerely hope that the United States will be faced with a firm and devastating response from the Muslim people.

Musavi Stesses Support to Jallud

GF260516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Following the clear aggression of the United States against the territory of brother country Libya, Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, our country's prime minister, held a telephone conversation with Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, late last night.

While stressing the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the face of the clear aggression by the United States, the premier also stressed the need for political and economic coordination between the two countries at regional and international levels.

During this 1-hour telephone conversation, our country's prime minister commented on the fact that aggression against Libya is aggression against Islamic territory and that it cannot remain unanswered in the Islamic world. He said: The spirit of resistance by the Libyan people in the face of U.S. aggression is equal to victory, and if you stand firm the U.S. aggression cannot be effective.

Mr Musavi stressed: Struggles against the United States, Zionism, and reactionaries have joined one another throughout the world. We are beside you with all that is at our disposal to resist this aggression.

Major Jallud then thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support for the Libyan stance. He said: Your struggle against Saddam in reality is our joint struggle against the United States in the Gulf of Sidra and in OPEC. He confirmed the Libyan people's firm stance in face of the U.S. aggression and said: The United States cannot counter a people who have decided to resist this power even if it means sacrificing one's life for this.

The telephone conversation concluded with an agreement between the two countries to counter U.S. plots in OPEC by further expanding their already close cooperation.

Rafiqdust Sends Note to Jabir

LD260641 Tehran IRNA in English 0634 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust in a message to the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, Tuesday said that defending Libya against U.S. aggression in the Gulf of Sidra, was the duty of all Islamic and Arab countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of its friendly relations and joint strategy with Libya, will remain on the side of the Libyan people in their confrontation against the U.S. aggression, said the message.

The IRGC minister added that the firm action of Libya in defending its territorial integrity against the flagrant U.S. aggression was a source of honour for all [words indistinct].

"In our view the Gulf of Sidra is an inseparable part of Libya and Islamic lands, and naturally defending it against any aggression was the duty of all Islamic and Arab countries," he stressed.

The U.S. Administration should bear in mind that it is playing with fire and obviously continuation of such vicious acts will endanger U.S. interests throughout the region, concluded the message.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

LD251723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] In connection with America's provocative actions in the Gulf of Sidra, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement saying: Over the past few days U.S. imperialism has engaged in provocative exercises in the waters of the Gulf of Sidra, which are part of the territorial waters of the Islamic state of Libya. It has in practice violated that

country's territory, and, by carrying out repeated military operations, has subjected the revolutionary state of Libya to some threats.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the recent U.S. provocations against the Muslim Libyan nation and its aggression against that country's airspace and territorial waters. Iran emphasizes its firm support for the struggles of the fraternal Libyan nation in defense of its territory in the face of U.S. aggressions. The Islamic Republic of Iran further declares that it will use all its resources to defend the fraternal state of Libya, and it is confident that such plots cannot make Libya stop pursuing its anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist policy. Obviously, should the U.S. aggressions and wickedness continue, not only will Iran and the world's revolutionary states not remain silent but the world's Muslim and revolutionary nations also will strongly confront the United States.

Libya Seeks Execution of U.S. 'Spies'

LD251110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1045 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Radio Libya today called for the execution of all U.S. spies who reside in Arab countries as experts and advisers. Radio Libya announced that very soon all Arab nations will march to war against America in united ranks. This radio said that the oil used by America should now be destroyed. U.S. bases in Arab countries should be attacked and all U.S. spies who have been sent to the scene as experts and advisers should be executed wherever in the Arab land they might be. The radio once again emphasized the downing of the three U.S. planes during yesterday's confrontation in Mediterranean skies and said that the present battle should be used as an opportunity to destroy America.

'Arab Reactionaries' Silent

GF260542 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Washington's aggression against the airspace over the Gulf of Sidra, including attacks by U.S. jets against the interests of the Libyan people in this gulf, were firmly countered by the people and the Armed Forces of Libya, and through the condemnation of the American actions by countries and progressive and independent circles throughout the world. But Arab reactionaries continue to remain silent in the face of the clear U.S. military aggression against Libya.

According to news agencies, the aggression of the U.S. 6th Fleet, which has come from the other side of the ocean, against Libya's waters and coastal areas has so far been strongly condemned by many countries including the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, and Cuba, as well as several other countries and liberation movements. It also has been condemned by independent circles in Western countries.

While the prime allies of the United States, including Britain and the occupying regime of Jerusalem, have announced their full support for the U.S. aggressions against Libya, Arab reactionaries, including the regimes governing Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq and other dependent regimes in the Arab world continue to remain silent about the U.S. military aggression against Libya.

All Means To Be Used in Support

LD251604 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — The Islamic Republic Tuesday cautioned the United States continuing its military confrontation with Libya and said it will not keep silent in the face of continuous hampering with the affairs of the North African nation.

In a statement published here the ministry [not further identified] said the Islamic Republic "will use all its means in support of the Libyan brother nation and it is sure that the conspiracies will not stop Libya from its anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist struggle".

"It is only natural that if the American aggressions and wickedness continues, not only Iran but also other Muslim and revolutionary countries will not keep silent but powerfully fight the United States" it said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the recent military provocations against the Muslim nation of Libya and stresses its firm support for the struggles of the brother nation in defence of its territory".

Libyan and American military forces clashed Monday over the Gulf of Sidra where Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has drawn a "line of death" in defence of his country's territorial waters.

Both Iran and Libya have common anti-imperialist foreign policies. Libya supporters Iran's war effort against the Iraqi Ba'th regime.

Khamene'i Celebrates Religious Holiday in Mashhad

Urges Sunni, Shi'ite Unity

LD251153 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 24, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i participated in a ceremony commemorating the birth anniversary of Imam 'Ali (A.S.), the first imam of Shi'ite Muslims here Monday.

The ceremony was held in a hall of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.), the eight Shi'ite imam and attended by local theologians and officials.

The president, who is on an inspection tour of the province, also inspected the construction project of a new library of the holy shrine Monday.

Meanwhile, President Khamene'i received Friday prayer leaders, ulema, professors of theological schools as well as Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims theologians of southern province in Torbat-e Heydariyeh, Khorasan Province, Sunday.

In his address to the gathering, he stressed that Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim theologians should maintain their unity and increase their efforts to dignify Islam and foil various conspiracies hatched by Muslims enemies especialy the global arrogance.

The president also elaborated determining role of committed theologians in the Iranian society.

Emphasizes OPEC Proposal

LD251156 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 25, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday stressed on Iran's stance towards OPEC and said that Iran's proposal to the organization is in the interest of all member countries and oil producers.

Speaking to IRNA before his departure from Mashhad at the conclusion of his five-day tour of Khorasan Province, the president noted that true nature of those who opposed oil price hike was clear to their people.

During his stay in Mashhad, the president who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council met religious and political figures of the province as well as families of the martyrs. He also toured Torbat-e Heydariyeh township.

Kurds Clash With Iraqi Troops in Rawanduz

LD252050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The Kurdish-inhabited Rawanduz area in Iraq recently witnessed a big battle between Kurdish Muslim tribesmen and the military forces of the Iraqi regime. In the course of the battle, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed. A Central News Unit report, citing the news unit of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, says: In retaliation for the defeat they suffered and the great loss of soldiers, the forces of the Iraqi regime, using light and heavy weapons, rained shells on the villages of (Belijan) and (Badilan), resulting in hundreds of villagers being martyred or wounded. The report adds: Two weeks ago a group of Kurdish Muslim peshmargas succeeded in destroying some military vehicles of the Iraqi Army on the (Dinartah) and (Jabal Tiras) road, north of the Iraqi Mosul Province. In the course of these operations, 25 Iraqi soldiers, including 2 senior officers, were killed.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Iraqi Chemical Weapons

LD251142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Statement issued by Foreign Ministry "on Iraq's repeated use of chemical weapons since the UN Security Council statement" — date not given]

[Excerpts] In his exalted name. Despite the Security Council statement condemning the Iraqi regime for deploying chemical weapons and contravening the 1925 Geneva Convention, during the past 2 days, the Iraqi regime has again extensively used chemical weapons in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater. This has resulted in the poisoning of a number of combatants of Islam.

It is necessary for the Security Council and international organizations, which are aware of the dangerous consequences of this illegal action by the Iraqi regime, to take decisive measures to halt such war crimes. The countries of the world should pressure and condemn Saddam's regime to force him to observe international commitments and conventions. Unless the use of chemical weapons is stopped, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be unwillingly forced to adopt other methods to defend itself and stop this dangerous act.

IRGC Chief Urges More To Take Part in War Effort

LD251953 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — Comamnder of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rezai'e on Tuesday reflected with approbation on Imam Khomeyni's statement Monday which said Iran would continue her defensive war with the Baghdad regime firmly insisting on her declared conditions for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

In a message from a military base in Val-Fajr-8 operations Tuesday the commander said more and more supporters of the Islamic revolution and of the masses should now more directly involve themselves in the war effort either by taking arms or by contributing to the war effort in whatsoever manner they can.

Rezai'e said the opportunity now is ideal for those who wish to contribute to the war effort since an entire gamut of expertise in countless areas of manufacturing industries and service operations can be used in the interest of the war.

The IRGC commander also warned against succumbing to vast foreign propaganda for blunting mass fervor and dampening the public enthusiasm in the Islamic Republic and expressed hope that the masses would march ahead braving the stumbling blocs occasionally laid on their path by the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Saddam Orders Execution of High-Ranking Officers

LD252030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Since the beginning of the glorious "Val-Fajr-8" operations by Islam's combatants, culminating in the liberation of vast areas in southern Iraq, more than 40 Iraqi Army soldiers, including several high-ranking officers from Iraqi VII Army Corps, were executed by direct orders from Saddam. Reports indicate that the disgraceful defeat suffered by the Iraqi Army in Al-Faw resulted in a fall of confidence by those countries supporting Iraq with regard to the military and operational capability of the Baghdad regime to confront the advance of the Islamic forces.

According to reports, Saddam, at a meeting with Army commanders, threatened to execute all senior military commanders

of the Iraqi VII Army Corps if they failed to regain the Al-Faw region. All this has taken place at a time when, according to reports reaching us, (Jasim al-Hayyani), commander of the Special Forces of the Iraqi Army, was killed during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations and his forces entirely destroyed.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Brigades Destroyed

LD251055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center of the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the complete destruction of the 704th independent infantry brigade of the defeated enemy, in yesterday's heavy fighting, the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam completely routed the 28th infantry brigade of Iraq's III Army. This brigade had been completely surrounded by the combatants during yesterday's operation on the Al-Faw-Basra axis. Hundreds of the remaining personnel of the brigade were also killed or captured by the forces of Islam.

At 0936 and 1145 — local time — today, the fast flying eagles of the Iranian Air Force bombed enemy concentration centers and bases on the 3-way crossing of Al-Bihar road and to the north, dealing fatal blows to the feeble enemy. After these successful operations, our fighter bombers returned safely to their bases.

Also, an enemy naval vessel was destroyed by the forces of Islam in the Khawr 'Abdallah waters.

Communique No 2420

LD251631 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — Iranian forces hit and sank one Iraqi vessel between Bubiyan Island and Al-Faw peninsula at 13:25 hours (09:55 hours GMT) Monday, says a military communique released here Tuesday.

The Communique Number 2420 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that at least 25 Iraqi soldiers were killed and two tanks, one loader, one observation post and three bunkers of theirs were destroyed during artillery battles with Iranian Muslim forces in the western fronts.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, heavy artillery fire of the Islamic forces of Iran pounded Iraqi troops attempting to launch a counterattack in Panjwin, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them and halting their efforts to take over Shaykh Gazneshin height. The Iranian artillery fire also silenced the enemy artillery and repelled an Iraqi patrol unit which was trying to infiltrate the Iranian positions in Shalar.

The joint staff says the industrial and economic installations of the Iraqi Banmil and Naft Khaneh townships were hit and damaged by Iranian artillery fire.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and the Iraqi forces continued in the southwestern fronts Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Al-Faw, Shahrani and the Majnun Islands as a result of which the Iraqi troops incurred heavy casualties and losses, according to the communique.

A number of Iraqi troops which were digging canals in Nahr Anbar area were killed or wounded by Iranian artillery fire, reports the Joint Staff Command.

Heavy artillery fire of the Iraqi forces hit the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province Monday damaging some houses.

Iraqi Special Forces Head Killed

LD251748 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — Commander of Iraq's 'Muhammad al-Qasim' special forces Jasim al-Hayyani is reported killed during Iran's Val-Fajr-8 offensive in Al-Faw, February 9th.

According to a foreign reporter who requested anonymity the death of the commander is now a common topic in private circles in Kuwait.

The Iranian forces totally destroyed Muhammad al-Qasim special forces during Fajr-8 offensive.

The reporter said that Al-Hayyani had been buried in a cemetery next to Umm al-Tabul Mosque in Baghdad.

The war planes of the Islamic Republic heavily bombed Iraq's command center in northern Al-Faw earlier.

Iraqi Missiles Kill Whales

LD260959 Tehran IRNA in English 0927 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 26, IRNA — An 11.67 meter long whale hit by an Iraqi rocket in the Persian Gulf waters died in the coasts of Badar Daylam, Bushehr Province, coast guards said here Wednesday.

The whale, wounded by an Iraqi rocket several days ago, was swept ashore and died later.

The Iraqi planes had apparently taken the whale for the "large naval target" which the Iraqi regime so often claims of having hit at the Persian Gulf waters.

According to local marine life officials in the course of the Iraqi imposed war large number of the species have been killed by Iraqi rockets. The Iraqi regime has made the Persian Gulf waters unsafe for marine life.

Iraqi Positions Bombed

LD261049 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center of the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, reports that at 1125 today the fast flying eagles of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out a bombing raid on a number of enemy command positions in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater and inflicted very substantial damage and losses on the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime. In addition, the combatants of Islam stationed in the region, while defending the areas captured, prevented the feeble enemy from engaging in any form of activity.

Afghan Mujahidin Down Soviet Helicopter

LD251740 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 25, IRNA — Afghan mujahideen shot down a Soviet helicopter in Qandahar Province where three mujahids were martyred and 8 others were injured.

Agency Afghan press sources said that Soviet planes and helicopters bombed mujahideen centre for Arghandab town on March 5. During the bombardment a helicopter was hit by anti-aircraft fire which caught fire and crashed. The Soviet pilot and four other troops aboarded the helicopter were also killed on the spot.